

**CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE
CORPS ASSOCIATION Inc.****December 2001.**

Publicity Officer : Helen Kenny, 27/1-13 Mackenzie St, Lavender Bay NSW 2060 Email: lalkenny@hotmail.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

7 November, 2001.

The Hon B. Scott, M.P.,
Minister for Veterans' Affairs,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA ACT 2600.

Dear Mr Scott,

Subject : Funding of Unit History

"On 12 February 2001 Central Bureau Intelligence Corps. Assn. Inc. submitted an application to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for funding of a unit history of Central Bureau in connection with the 'Their Service Our Heritage' Commemorative Grants programme. As yet, no response has been received to our application for the sum of \$70,000 through the local commemorative activities fund.

Our Association's sole motivation in making this application was the hope that all surviving Australian Signals Intelligence servicemen and women may during their lifetime, receive long overdue recognition for their outstanding contribution to the success of the Allied WWII SIGINT Operations.

Unless a decision on this matter is made in the near future it is quite likely that few, if any, of our members will live to see their history published.

For this reason, an early decision re funding is earnestly requested.

Yours faithfully,

G.R. Gibson,
Chairman."

I am afraid the above letter says all that can be said so far about your Association's Unit History project. Once again copies have been sent to 'The Top Brass' : the Chiefs of Navy, Army and Air Force, the National Presidents of the R.S.L. and the Naval and R.A.A.F. Associations, the Director of the Australian War Memorial, and of course, to Ron Bonington, Director D.S.D. We are still hoping someone may be spurred into action on our behalf.

At least one of our members is so concerned and disappointed at the long delay in obtaining any concrete action in response to our request [submitted nearly twelve months ago] that she has indicated her willingness to make a substantial contribution towards the cost of publication. On behalf of the Committee and, I am sure, of all the members, I thank the lady concerned for her generous offer.

Increase in Annual Subs??

At the last Committee Meeting, our Treasurer Bruce Bentwitch, reported that due to the rising cost of publishing the Newsletters and also of the premium for the insurance policy we must hold if we are to remain an incorporated body, there may well be a shortfall in our finances by the end of the year. Any increase in the annual subscription would have to be approved by a majority at a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose. However, someone may be able to suggest an alternative solution. This whole matter will therefore be open for discussion at our Annual General Meeting on Monday 4th February, 2002. Mark that date in your calendar and come along to give your opinion on this and other matters.

Meanwhile, my very best wishes to you all for a joyous Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

Gordon Gibson, President,
67/1-9 Yardley Avenue,
WAITARA NSW 2077
Phone [02] 9487 3029 E-mail
sueg@optusnet.com.au

HON TREASURER'S REPORT.

From information released in recent years, we learned that approximately 4300 served in the organisation now known as Central Bureau although in WWII this name as far as the R.A.A.F. was concerned was very hush-hush and not used. We served as units of R.A.A.F. command.

The 4300 or so comprised:

- ASWG & AWAS 1300
- RAAF & WAAAF 1300
- S.R.I. [US ARMY] 1350
- CANADIANS 350

a few British Army and Eric Nave, I believe the only Naval Officer in our midst.

It was a great surprise to be issued identity passes at San Miguel mid July 1945 disclosing organisation as Central Bureau, and in my case, service R.A.A.F. These passes were issued by the U.S. Army and signed by Enid M Chapman, 1st Lt. Signals Corps. Do any of our American members remember her?

My card pass No 352 is still in very good condition, and the photo clear. I wonder how many have similar cards?

At present we have 196 members, 88 in N.S.W. with lesser numbers in other states and the A.C.T., and 8 overseas members. In our number are a few honorary members, but considering the lapse of time and many no longer with us, our numbers are being maintained reasonably well.

I hope those on the 'not-so-well list' have improving health, and wish all the compliments of the season and a happy and healthy 2002.

Bruce Bentwitch, Hon. Treasurer,
7 Holly Street, Castle Cove NSW 2069
[02] 9417-1427.

HON. SECRETARY'S PAR.

Hello, friends. Well, it's been a very busy year and we hope it will prove productive. Chairman Gordon's report fills you in on the major issue. There have been sad losses from our ranks; then again, even at this late stage, we have acquired a few new members. So, the list continually changes.

On the social side we had the convivial mini-reunion at Stockton R.S.L. Club on 13 November. Due to a foul-up in connections a slightly shattered group of us finally joined the anxious remainder already at the Club. In all, 22 made it, which was gratifying. Those present were - Stan and Maureen Baylis, Noni Benn, Bruce Bentwitch, Hope Creary, Jack and Melba Douglass, Phil and Val Dynes, Gordon and Sue Gibson, Faye Gilinsky, Joyce Grace, David and Yvonne Geyer, Helen Kenny, Doug Pyle, John Shoebridge, Gordon Swinney, Eric and Eve Webb. It was good to see Gordon Swinney able to join us after traumatic illness and still under treatment. He had kindly arranged the venue, which was comfortable, and the meal excellent. Apologies were received from Peg Moore and Joyce Casey; also Madeleine Chidgey [Ron not too well]. We were sorry to learn recently that Norma Keeling was in hospital [Westmead]. On enquiry I learned that she is up and about now, and back at Katoomba.

Not having been to Newcastle for many years it was interesting to see the vast improvement to the waterfront. A lovely corso leads to an all-weather restaurant at the pier. There were also very elegant apartment houses below Nobby's - the latter glittering in white paint and sunshine. Alas, time did not permit further investigation.

With Christmas rapidly approaching there will be sadness for some of our members and our thoughts are with them. For those recovering from surgery and illness, may you be well soon. To all we wish PEACE.

Our A.G.M. will be held on Tuesday, 4 February 2002 - check out the notice at the back of this newsletter. If possible, do try to be there - we have decisions to make.

VALE

Laurina Dale, [Norwood, Tasmania]
WAAAF.

1 W.U.

Pt. Cook, Townsville/Stuarts Creek,

21 Henry Street.

And belatedly,

Athol Whyburn [Berkeley Vale, N.S.W.]
RAAF WU.

Until 2002, good wishes to you all.

Joy Granger,
2N. RSLVRV,
P.O. Box 56,
NARRABEEN NSW 2101.
[02] 9981-2397

STOCKTON MINI-REUNION

My journey to Stockton was beautiful - unlike journeys that some others endured. Novocastrian Jean Mulholland drove me up the highway, gave a short tour of Newcastle, pointed out beaches where surf rolled in on white sands, showed me fine old buildings on the heights where the view was superb, and dropped me at the Stockton Ferry. It sailed straightway, the bus pick up was immediate and arrival at the Stockton R.S.L. within minutes.

Gordon Swinney, who'd arranged the gathering, was there talking to friends. We waited for the arrival of our President, Gordon Gibson, who was coming up by train with the rest of the contingent. We waited. And waited. After 1 p.m., when remarks such as "I'm getting hungry" were heard, Joy Grace and I had the same thought - independently. Hadn't the instructions for our meeting place read: "Venue - Stockton R.S.L. Club [Linda Garden]?"

Was Linda Garden a courtyard or garden within the club? Had our missing group gone there? Joy went to the office to ask. I put the question to Gordon Swinney. His face creased with mirth. "Linda Garden is a person, not a place," he explained. "She works at the Club." Joy had the same answer from the office.

Then, through the window, we saw a bus arrive. It disgorged our President, his wife Sue, Secretary Joy Granger and the rest of the CBers from Sydney and far suburbs. They looked travel weary, not jet lagged, but train and ferry lagged. The train had run late, missing ferry and bus connections. And there wouldn't be much time. Those bound for Sydney would have to leave the club by 2.40 p.m. With this information we sped to the dining room, put in our orders, and let the mini reunion get under way.

Oysters seemed succulent, quick to eat. That was my choice. It would give time to talk to some of the 22 at lunch. Of these, nine came from north of the Hawkesbury - from Green Point, Gloucester, Berkeley Vale, New Lambton, Merewether, Bolwarra Heights and Gateshead. Nine came from Sydney and suburbs - North Manly, Castle Cove, Waitara, Lavender Bay, Wollstonecraft and Narrabeen. Two travelled from South Maroota [in the Wiseman's Ferry area] and two from Leonay, west of Penrith, in the Blue Mountains foothills.

Lately Newsletter has had so much sadness to report, that it was a happy change to find that we had a newly married couple in our midst. Phil and Val Dynes wed on October 12. Our congratulations to them. Val was born in Newcastle, has three children from an earlier marriage, and has now changed her address to Phil's - 4452 Bucketts Way South, Gloucester.

Seated close to the Dynes were Yvonne and Dave Geyer from Merewether. She, like Val, is a Novocastrian. The Geyers married on September 20, 1997 - this being Yvonne's third marriage. Between them they have 16 offspring, nine being Dave's, seven Yvonne's. [Four stepchildren were mentioned, but Newsletter is not sure where they come in the family tree]. Speaking of family trees, Yvonne, an historian, is researching the genealogies of early settlers in Newcastle. Our best wishes to her and Dave.

Next to me was Doug Pyle, from Bolwarra Heights. He used a new fountain pen, gift of Probus, to sign his name. He received it for speaking to them on the origin of Central Bureau and how the work of CB "shortened the war by two years".

Doug, who speaks to many service groups, has written a book "The Ultra Experience" which he promises to send to Newsletter.

No room here to detail the career of a man who turned 19 in December 1941, after training in "industrial arts [manual]" at Sydney Teachers' College. He joined the army, was recruited by Edgar Kelson, and finished up as a cipher mechanic, the others being Bill Londquist and Les Mannering. Here, former Sergeant Pyle and I began having an animated conversation about spindles, drums, and messages going to such places as GGCS, WEC [Delhi], Kandy, and Washington. As Kana was to the R.A.A.F., so cipher was to us. There was no manual for the cipher mechanics. The machines came from England. But enough. Wait to read Doug's work. And, if Les Mannering and Bill Londquist are around, please contact Newsletter.

Other quick conversations were with Joy Grace, - whose bowling skills are high, and with Eve and Eric Webb, from Leonay. He served with Army Signals in places such as Nadzab, Noemfoor and Borneo, and hopes to join CB - having been a visitor to several of our functions.

Again, our thanks to Gordon Swinney for organising the pleasant lunch at Stockton, but no thanks to the RTA for the return journey on which we lost our President and Sue in the chaos of Broadmeadow station, and had almost to send out a search party. Yes, they did get home. Relief all round!

H.K.

BRIAN BOMBELL WRITES TO THE EDITOR: -

"Dear Helen,

Following our phone conversation, I thought it might be an opportune time to discuss the original formation of C.B.I.C.A.

I was discharged from the army in October 1945 and in the following January started up a printing business called Bell Press Pty. Ltd. with my late father and four brothers.

At this time I kept in close contact with Frank Tyler and Bob Bevan. Frank became our artwork supplier.

We often discussed C.B. and its characters but it took years before we decided that when the 30 years were up to do something about it.

Bob Burnside, Frank Tyler, and myself would meet in my office at Rockdale and chase up whoever we could, with a view to forming the association.

At that time we contacted Bill Ludwig who attended a few of the early meetings, and after contacting whoever we could and deciding on a date and venue we had our first reunion at the Kensington RSL in October 1974, which was very successful.

Frank Tyler did all the artwork for the letterheads and the bulletins and I decided to do the printing, mainly from copy supplied by Stan Winn, Gordon Gibson and Jim Williams.

I kept doing this until I retired in October 1995, when Dennis Moore became the Publicity Officer. He would come to my home with copy, and I still organised the printing by my old firm Bell Press for a few more years.

At this time, I said to Dennis that I should pay my membership, but he refused, saying that the fact that I had never charged for any of the printing was greatly appreciated.

In October 1978 Frank Tyler, Bob Bevan and myself went to Melbourne to see if we could contact any former CBers and we contacted Pat Gill, Lester Truex, Geoff Patience, and Jack McCorkill.

Bob and I came back and Frank stayed on to see the Melbourne Cup, and a few days later I was phoned by his sister Betty and told that Frank had passed away in Melbourne.

As I said on the phone I have not been in the best of health lately, having a throat cancer operation in 1993 and 30 treatments of radiation, I still attend the cancer clinic yearly, and everything seems OK.

I also, courtesy of all those cigarettes that were issued to me in Hollandia, have emphysema and am now on an oxygen machine 22 hours per day, but I still battle along.

Hoping that what I have said in this letter will be of interest to some of the members, and hoping to hear from you in the near future, best of everything to you."

Brian Bombell,
10 Henson Street,
BRIGHTON-LE-SANDS NSW 2216.

Thank you Brian, for your informative letter and for all the work you did for Newsletter in the past. Sorry to hear that your health is so bad. We did not know, in youth, of the cigarette danger.

Now - can anyone help? When was the first issue of the Newsletter? Was it March 1981? I have not a full run of Newsletters - holding June 1981, edited by Bob Burnside, then have gaps until December 1984 when Madeline Chidgey took over. Marion Winn followed her in 1989, and then came Dennis Moore from 1990. Peggy Moore can give me the issues he produced, although I have many of these.

For reference, these really need to be indexed by names and events, so that when the Yamamoto story comes up again, or when someone is mentioned, we know the issue and the date. Has anyone kept all copies from the start?

Please send e-mail, or write to:-

(Mrs) Helen Kenny,
Publicity Officer, CBICA Inc.,
27/1-13 Mackenzie Street,
LAVENDER BAY NSW 2060
[02] 9954-0940

IN BRIEF

Geoff Day, who last saw Singapore in 1942 ("How it's changed except for Raffles Hotel") flew back early this year to take a cruise in the "Superstar Gemini" along the coast of Malaysia, with landings at ports. This was "possibly the best week or so of my life" says Geoff, who, almost 60 years ago, was a Lance Corporal in the British Army, working

as an intercept operator at FECB, Kranji. Before Singapore fell, Geoff was evacuated and eventually reached Australia where he served with C.B.

John Shoebridge has been back to Norway again, travelling home after the ghastly event of September 11. Airport security was strictest at Kingsford-Smith, Sydney, he says. In Norway, Tampa was the topic.

Myron Scougale, from Everett, Washington, USA, had a brief visit to his wife's home country, Australia, this year, and made contact with Gordon Gibson when passing though. We hope he, his family and American CBers are safe and well.

Steve Kirsten has just returned from Durban, South Africa, to his home in Liverpool, N.S.W. He still has a house in Natal which he had not visited for a year. In that time, he writes: "Words fail me ... it was more like entering a long forgotten temple in the middle of a jungle." Creepers festooned the entrance, and had invaded his car. Monkeys, seeking ripe paw-paws, were using his roof as a "freeway, thumping the daylights out of it" when they landed from adjoining trees. Steve did a big clean up of house and car, revisited Durban which has regained its charm, saw his old Playhouse theatre, and enjoyed the weather, saying that "every day was 'barbie' time in shorts and singlets, even at night!". He enclosed clippings from South African newspapers with mentions of Bletchley Park.

Dr Peter Donovan, 42 Beaconsfield Parade, Lindfield, N.S.W. 2070, is a mathematician and academic at the University of N.S.W., who is researching the life and code-breaking career of the late Professor Thomas Room, the centenary of whose birth will be next year. He hopes to put out a publication in commemoration of this. Any help from CBers would be appreciated.

Robert Brown and **Don Robinson** are amongst those who have been in touch with Dr Donovan.

Don Robinson also passed to Newsletter a copy of the talk made by Dr Abe Sinkov at the Waterfront Restaurant, Circular Quay on August 25, 1984 at a dinner given in his honour by CBICA.

(IN BRIEF - continued ...)

It is in this speech that he repeats General Willoughby's statement that "signal intelligence had chopped two years off the war in the Pacific."

Central Bureau, said Dr Sinkov, "played an important role in the winning of the war."

Norma Keeling, our former Hon. Treasurer, always ended her reports with witty or thoughtful quotations. Many enjoyed reading these, so Newsletter asked Norma if she could provide a few quotations for us when she feels up to it. (She's not long out of hospital). Norma said she'd be happy to do this - so watch for Keeling quotes in future Newsletters. Our wishes to her.

Doug Cable, who in 2000 saw our Sigint Reunion advertisement in VetAffairs magazine, was reunited with ASWG after 56 years, much to his and their pleasure. Through his help **Douglas Helleur**, of 3/7 Hampton Court, Pottsville Waters, N.S.W. 2489, contacted us. Mr Helleur [02] 6676-4769 is a former Japanese linguist, who trained at Point Cook, went to Japan with BCOF, and over time worked with the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) Tokyo, taught at the University of Queensland, and was Head of Japanese Service, Radio Australia. Now retired, he has set up an organisation called ANVIL {Australian-New Zealand Veterans Intelligence Linguists}, which has its own newsletters, and hopes to exchange information with CBICA. He and others have located about 125 linguists in Australia, New Zealand, Britain and Canada.

BOOK REVIEW:-

"Anecdotes of a Japanese Translator, 1941-1945". By D.H. Laidlaw, A.O.

this interesting publication had its inception when the State Library of South Australia launched a project named Memory S.A. The object was to encourage servicemen and civilians to record their experiences during World War II. They could do this in oral or written form. Selected accounts are to be published on the Web Site.

Don Laidlaw, of Walkerville, S.A., read this and decided to participate. He explains. "I have written three chapters. The first explains how I learned Japanese which came about because I discovered unexpectedly that I am colour blind. The second and third chapters deal with my experiences during three years in an Allied Signal Intelligence unit [Central Bureau], serving in Brisbane, Northern Territory and the Philippines. There is nothing earth-shattering about this story, but I did work with some very unusual people, Australians, Americans, English and Japanese."

The anecdotes were "typed laboriously with two fingers" on Laidlaw's laptop, reducing the page size from A4 to A5 was "a novel experience" for the author. The 89-page booklet has a photograph of Laidlaw on the cover. It was taken when he was about 20 and shows a fair-haired, strong looking lad, who is bare-chested and wears only shorts, socks and boots. (No 'slip, slop, slap' then). He leans against a rather prickly Northern Territory tree, and regards the camera lens with a grin. The place - Coomalie Creek.

He writes with the hope that the anecdotes will amuse. They do, but they also have great value for their description of events and people. Other photographs show Sandford, Yamagata, 21 Henry Street, the "tent city" at Eagle Farm Racecourse, H Branch of Central Bureau, the first group of 12 Japanese translators from England, ruins of the river front at Manila, the chapel at San Miguel and the Spanish hacienda at San Miguel which became CB Headquarters.

The publication also includes photographs of Don Laidlaw's parents, his wife, and daughters.

In 1941 he was 17, and studying law at the University of Adelaide. Elements of Law were taught by Professor Arthur Campbell, who had become Chief Censor for S.A. at the start of the war. Campbell, dubbed a "dreary lecturer" by Laidlaw, was also a humorous raconteur. Laidlaw himself recalls the time when he and other students lunched at the Naval and Military Club with Professor Campbell. He invited Laidlaw to pour the wine, which Laidlaw did.

"While doing so I turned my wrist over so that the back faced downwards towards the tablecloth," writes Laidlaw.

'Don't do that!' exclaimed the Professor in a voice loud enough to be audible to members at adjoining tables. 'If you were in Central Europe it would mean that there is a spy in our midst. That is a gesture that was established in the days of the Austro-Hungarian Empire to warn that someone nearby is not to be trusted.' "

Laidlaw apologised, changed his grip on the bottle, and, years later, found corroboration for this story. He's often rebuked friends and family for wrong-way bottle holding.

In November 1941 he sat for Law exams. The war was "very distracting". He turned 18, applied to join the RAAF, proved to be colour blind, tried the Navy, got the same rejection, then found that colour blindness was no bar to joining the Army. Three days after Pearl Harbour he enlisted and was told to report to the Intelligence Corps. He became part of the Militia in the 4th Military District, and not until he joined CB In February 1943 did he become liable for overseas service with the AIF.

No one in 4 M.D. could speak Japanese, although some were skilled in German and Italian. The Intelligence Corps needed to set up a Japanese Room to deal with matters Japanese. Laidlaw became the first member of the section. As no Japanese classes were held in Adelaide, an Englishman, Ronald Turner, an ex Bible Society officer, offered to give Laidlaw tutorials. Intelligence regarded Turner with suspicion as a "possible spy". He wasn't. Although the tutor could not speak Japanese he could read and write it, and taught Laidlaw Katakana and Hiragana [the straight and cursive forms of Japanese syllabic writing] plus a few Kanji symbols.

After six months in the Army, Laidlaw, now an Acting Lance Sergeant, was sent to Loveday, where Internment Camp 14C housed 600 Japanese. Here Laidlaw [clutching a Japanese-English dictionary] made the rounds with Major Lott, the 14C Camp Commandant, who, up till then, had relied upon English speaking Japanese to translate his orders.

The internees varied from educated businessmen, and young business trainees, to pearl divers and fishermen. From the trainees, who were about the same age as he, Don Laidlaw's Japanese conversation gained fluency. It was when on leave in Adelaide that he heard that Major Mic Sandford needed Japanese linguists, and that he was building up a special Army Intelligence group attached to SWPA Headquarters in Brisbane.

Laidlaw was transferred to CB, Brisbane, within two weeks. "No one asked to test my competence as a Japanese linguist," he wrote. On his first day at Henry Street, he was allocated to the Translation Section headed by Nobby Clarke, who told him "never be too proud to admit that you do not understand. It saves so much time. "Nobby referred to certain American officers whose "knowledge of Japanese would do little more than get them to and from the local Geisha House."

Such frankness was refreshing. Laidlaw, at Henry Street, learnt "Japanese signal language," and was transferred to Coomalie Creek [51 Wireless Section] to replace Joe da Costa.

He and others had to build their own huts [which white ants attacked]. Geoffrey Ballard was Intelligence Officer, and Allan Clifton a fellow translator. Don Laidlaw, after laborious work, found the key to decoding Japanese Naval Air messages in jumbled kana. He won commission as a Lieutenant for this, and returned to Brisbane in February 1944.

Central Bureau was growing. After Japanese code books from Sio were retrieved, General Akin ordered that future captured cryptographic material should be brought back to CB by a four-engined plane, in the personal custody of a nominated officer, with no other passengers on board.

Laidlaw here tells a wonderful story about an American officer, Captain Gordon Thompson, who was sent to New Guinea to collect a steel box of code books captured from a Japanese freighter.

Thompson, who, pre-war, had worked as a bank officer in Japan and Shanghai, was sent to collect the box. He was very fond of Chinese food, but soy sauce was scarce in wartime Brisbane.

Gordon Thompson returned from New Guinea with **four** boxes, and was met at Archerfield by Don Laidlaw, police security and truck. The plane landed at a remote corner of the field. Central Bureau had heard of the coming arrival of masses of code books.

Thompson confided that only one box held codes. The others held soy sauce. This satisfied Thompson, Laidlaw and those who liked Chinese food. Colonel Sinkov, their C.O., was not really impressed.

Anecdotes about Brisbane and the Philippines are lively, most readable. They are reminiscent of Hugh Melinsky's "A code-breakers' tale", but quite different. Don Laidlaw returned to Australia aboard the dreaded Francis N. Blanchet, a rickety craft with cracks in the welded hull. Aboard this ship and perhaps to take his mind off the heaving ocean, Don Laidlaw organised a four of bridge. His friend, Melinsky, in "A code-breaker's tale" refers to Captain Don Laidlaw as a British officer instead of Australian, and to the ship as having been India-bound instead of Brisbane. Laidlaw gently corrects these illusions.

Many years have passed since Don Laidlaw was a Japanese translator with CB, but he writes with freshness and wit, as if he is 19 again. As if we all are.

Helen Kenny.

[Only 300 copies have been printed. Don Laidlaw has offered 20 - free - to CBers. He will send them to me - you have my address - for distribution. The only cost will be postage. This is to be found out. Please let me know if you're interested and I'll put your name on the list, in order of priority. HK].

FOR THE YAMAMOTO FILE

Rex T. Barber, the American World War II fighter pilot who helped to shoot down the bomber carrying Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto

in 1943, has died at his Terrebonne, Oregon, home. He was 84.

Geoffrey Ballard sent this intelligence in a cutting from the Melbourne Age of August 14, 2001, which reprinted it from the New York Times. There has been just as much controversy over which pilot downed Yamamoto as there has been over his death and its reason. (See Nobby Clarke's assassination theory V Reg Harris' counter-argument in Newsletter, June 1999.

Yamamoto, "the architect of Pearl Harbour" and Commander of the Japanese fleet, left Rabaul, New Britain, for the Solomon Islands on April 18, an intercepted message revealing this to the Allies in advance.

"Sixteen Army Air Force fighter planes [P-38 Lightnings] were dispatched from Guadalcanal on a flight of more than 400 miles [644 kilometers] to Bougainville," reads the account.

There they spotted two Mitsubishi bombers known as Bettys, with six Zero fighter aircraft accompanying them.

"Captain Thomas G. Lanphier junior led three other pilots - Barber, then a Lieutenant, Lieutenant Besby F. Holmes and Lieutenant Raymond K. Hine - in pursuit of the bombers."

The lead bomber, carrying Yamamoto, crashed into the jungle, killing all aboard. In the battle, Hine's aircraft disappeared, while Barber's plane was "riddled with more than 100 bullet holes." Nevertheless, Barber struggled back to Guadalcanal.

Years later he recalled how he started shooting into the right engine cowl of the lead Betty bomber [Yamamoto's], and described how the cowl flew up and how black smoke was emitted.

In September 1945 the War Department gave Lanphier, by then a Lieutenant Colonel, sole credit for shooting down Yamamoto and he received hero status. In 1973, the Air Force took away Lanphier's sole credit, and awarded half credits to him and to Barber. Later, Barber appealed, seeking sole credit, but his request was rejected in 1996.

Barber, shot down over China in 1944, escaped Japanese troops and went on to fly in the Korean War. He retired as a Colonel in 1961 - having received the Navy Cross for the Yamamoto mission.

No cameras were there to record the event. The fighters won "glory" but speculation will always remain.

VALE Joyce Sandars (nee Roberts)

Joyce, who died in July, served with CB as an AWAS cipher sergeant. After her death her daughters Glenda and Shelley Sandars wrote, saying: "Joyce spoke often of her cipher colleagues and always with great affection and respect. Not only did she appreciate their companionship ... during the war, but the value and spirit of the group stayed with her throughout her life. Cipher reunions were the only reunions that she attended, and, in fact, anticipated eagerly."

The same AWAS friends were at her funeral. One was Irene Chesshire [nee Turner] who had been bridesmaid when Joyce married Ray Sandars in 1950.

Joyce was born in Ballarat, educated at Launceston Secondary School in Tasmania, and there became a secretary at Genders, a smallgoods company. She was skilled at Pitman's shorthand, and after the war, returned to a secretarial job, this time at Huttons, there meeting her husband, who was the accountant.

The girls, Glenda and Shelley, were born, and in 1963 the close knit family moved to Glen Waverley, Victoria. Sadly in 1969 Raymond died, and Joyce relinquished home duties to become a secretary at Burwood East Primary School. In 1974, with retirement, Joyce joined the Melbourne Women's Walking Club. She travelled world wide, and around Australia. In 1994, when 75, she and her daughters trekked through Nepal. Her stamina was remarkable. As well, she had humour and enjoyed music and mathematics, passing this mathematical passion on to her children. Quite recently she "relocated" her home, and when asked which of her numerous books she wished to take with her, she named two - her father's Bible and her Pitman's Shorthand book.

She was a fine photographer, but dodged being photographed herself. Joyce was at the Sigint reunion in Melbourne last year. She was captured in a group picture, and will be very much missed by old colleagues.

H.K.

PUBLICATIONS.

Ink Emma Ink, Newsletter of ASWG, in its November 2001 issue, mentions the late Maurice Biggs as its first editor in 1942. When **Ink Emma Ink** turns 60 in 2002, will it be the oldest surviving newsletter of World War II? Can anyone confirm? Our sympathies go to ASWG for the loss of its president, Dave Charlesworth, and of that great character, William Stevenson (The Scot") who had been the unit's RSM. Aswegians had celebrated the Scot's 100th birthday in July. His death came on October 21.

The Queensland Wireless Units

Association Newsletter of June 2001 told of the public seminar on "Brisbane's Intelligence Role in World War II", at the Queensland University of Technology, Data Communications Department, on June 23. Professor Bill Caelli, Head of School, was one of the speakers, and Bruce Cooper and Mac Jamieson, of the RAAF Wireless Association spoke also. President Harold Cook also attended.

Mac Jamieson writes: "After we spoke we were sweetened up with a new Parker pen each and a fancy bottle of wine, then taken to the Park Royal Hotel for a sumptuous lunch. Our chauffeur for the day was a lecturer, Les Smith, who agreed to be speaker at the Unit's coming reunion."

Australian Defence Force Journal, July/August, 2001.

One section carried the title: "Is Increasing Gender Equity in the ADF Improving Operational Capability?" The author was Major L. Nemitschenko,

ARES, who has been a psychologist in the Army Reserve since 1998, and was promoted to Major and OC of the Unit in January 2001. She is a counselling psychologist at the University of Sydney.

The first paragraph begins: "When the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) was formed in 1939, women were allowed entry to only a restricted range of duties."

That is the only mention of any Australian women's service in WWII, and it is WRONG. The AWAS was created on August 13 1941, the WAAAF and WRANS preceding it earlier that year. By March 1944 there were more than 52,000 women in the services, and the nursing branches including AAMWS totalled 9,200. [Source, Australian Encyclopaedia.]

Major Nemitschenko's article defines combat, and names combative women from Boadicea, to the "Tiger Lady of the Delta" in South Vietnam.

The tiger ladies of the World War II women's services in this country have reason to be critical of this article. They may have been restricted from front line combat, [and probably did not desire this], but in Ack Ack, in Meteorology, in Sigint, and in many fields, gave backup. The Major's [do we call her Madam?] bibliography and viewpoint are also restricted.

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EDITORIAL

In November/December 1941 and in November/December 2001 "The World turn'd Upside Down" to quote the title of an ancient song.

In those last months of 1941, children ran through the playgrounds of Sydney, shouting "Jerry Christmas and Jappy New Year," thinking this funny, while parents sat by the wireless sets,

listening and agonizing over the news and at what might be fated for their sons and daughters.

Great ships had gone down - the Sydney, the Prince of Wales and Repulse. Malaya and Pearl Harbour were attacked. Hong Kong would fall on Christmas Day. Singapore would soon follow. Pacific Islands were overtaken and Australia threatened as the Japanese spread southward. Across the world Britain was beleaguered, most of Europe occupied, and Russia and the Middle East burned.

No one could decipher then what would happen. No one can decipher it now, as Ground Zero still smoulders from the September 11 attack, as old allies, the USA, Britain and Australia, are caught up in the war against terrorists, having a new ally in this - Japan. Her fleet sails again. We do not know which way the winds will blow.

This is not really a season for greetings, but we send them anyway. Our fervent hope is for an ending to pain and war.

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